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U.S. APPARENTLY POLITICAL STORM

Administration Hopes a Facade of Be Maintained

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (AP) - Johnson Administration ofevident hope that a facade of civilian rule can be maintained in South Viet Nam.

son was that Washington has had ness" in South Viet Nam. to weather so many of these, upsets in the last 15 months.

Coup leaders are reported to have indicated to the United States that they intend to operate as far as possible within the legal framework of civilian government, and to stick to plans for early election of a national assembly.

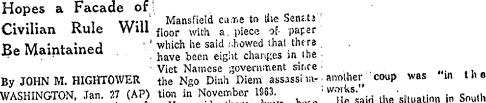
said to have found these indica- the people." tions encouraging though no one would predict what the future would bring in Saigon.

Rusk Awaiting Facts

Secretary of State Dean Rusk declined to talk to reporters other than to say "We're not commenting today until we have all the facts."

Senator Mike Mansfield! majority leader, told reporters that he thinks U.S. Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor "is doing the best possible job under the circumstances which confront ation in South Viet Nam. him."

coups make his already difficult | tee chairman, was asked by re- apparently represented his own



He said there have been ficials appeared determined to "three coups. one attempted Viet Nam was "very distress-day to ride out the latest po-coup, one semi-doup and three ing," but, as to whether another litical storm in Saigon in the other changes which are hard coup was in the works, he said, to classify."

In contrast with the Administration's approach, Senator The coup by which the military George D. Aiken (Rep.), Verleadership under Lt. Gen. Ngu- mont, said at the Capitol that yen Khanh ousted Premier Tran he has "about come to the con-Van Huong caused no sense of clusion that Ambassador Taylor crisis here. One apparent rea- has about outlived his useful-

Doesn't Blame Taylor

Aiken, an influential member. of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in an interview:

"I'm hot sure a successor would do any better there than, Ambassador Taylor. I don't blame Ambassador Taylor. He's a top-flight military officer, but we need some down to-the-earth Américan policymakers were type who could get closer to

> Aiken said he was beginning to have doubts whether the United State: can "hold on long enough to Viet Ham until a stable government is estab-

"If I knew just what to do, I'd be down at the White House terrerence with civinan rule, steps waiting to tell the Presiseemed to be rather that the dent," he said.

(Dem.), Montana, the Senate ing of the Foreign Relations must be to get on with the war Committee vesterday by John A. effort while preserving civilian McCone, director of the Central rule to the fullest extent pos-Intelligence Agency, which in sible. cluded questioning on the situ-

STATINTL

He said the situation in South

'No, I do not think there is."

The coup dealt an obvious and severe blow to United States hopes for preserving and strengthening the civilian administration, of which the Huong regime had become the symbol and main instrument. Despite this setback, however, officials said privately that there was no; thought of making a wholesale reappraisal of United States policy supporting the anti-Communist war effort in South Vict Nam.

After a similar political upheaval Dec. 20 in Saigon, the United States issued a public warning, aimed at Khanh and his associates, that the United States support was based on maintaining a government free of "improper interference."

No one arose here in the hours immediately following the latest coup to argue that the military ouster of Premier Huong constituted a proper or acceptable interference with civilian rule. seemed to be rather that the Aiken attended a closed brief- main concern at the moment

President Lyndon B. Johnson was being kept informed of de-Senator J. W. Fulbright velopment in detail. The deter-(Dem.), Arkansas, the commit-mination to ride out the storm

job more difficult and delicate." porters , afterward whether thinking. Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200920097-6